

a4 23. (Amended) The method according to Claim 22, wherein said blocking protein is selected from the group consisting of: peptidyl-prolyl isomerases, Hsp90 (Heat shock protein 90), steroid hormone receptors, cytoskeletal proteins, albumin and vitamin receptors.

Please enter the following new claims:

a5 --27. (New) A method for inhibiting a binding event between a first target protein and a second binding protein in a host, said method comprising:

administering to said host an effective amount of a non-naturally occurring bifunctional inhibitor molecule of less than about 5000 daltons consisting of a target protein ligand bonded to a blocking protein ligand through a linking group, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule is capable of simultaneously binding said target protein and said blocking protein in a manner sufficient to inhibit said binding event, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule is of the formula:

Z-L-X

wherein:

X is target protein ligand;

L is a bond or a linking group; and

\* Z is different from X and is a blocking protein ligand;

to produce a tripartite complex comprising said bifunctional inhibitor molecule, said target protein and said blocking protein that inhibits said binding event of said second binding protein to said first target protein.


28. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule binds to a site of said target protein that is also bound by said second binding protein.

29. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule binds to a site of said target protein that is not bound by said second binding protein.

30. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said tripartite complex is produced intracellularly.

31. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said tripartite complex is produced extracellularly.

32. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said blocking protein is endogenous to said host.



33. (New) The method according to Claim 32, wherein said blocking protein is selected from the group consisting of: peptidyl-prolyl isomerases, Hsp90 (Heat shock protein 90), steroid hormone receptors, cytoskeletal proteins, albumin and vitamin receptors.

34. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule is administered as a pharmaceutical preparation.

35. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein X has a molecular weight of from about 50 to 2000 D.

36. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said target protein is an extracellular protein.

37. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said target protein is an intracellular protein.

38. (New) The method according to Claim 37, wherein said blocking protein is a peptidyl prolyl isomerase.

39. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein Z has substantially no pharmacologic